(d) to (f) Bharuch-Dahej Railway Company Limited, a projects specific Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) has been created for taking up implementation of Bharuch-Dahej gauge conversion project. A time frame to complete the project will be fixed only after signing of the Concession Agreement.

Project development for Surat-Hazira new line has been completed and it is proposed to be implemented through a project specific SPV with viability gap funding from Ministry of Finance and grant from Government of Gujarat. The project is under process of sanction and completion of the project will be fixed only after its sanction and finalization of revenue model.

Connecting Sikkim with rail link

2076. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sikkim State has not, so far, been connected with the rail link;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government formulated any policy in this respect; and

(d) if so, the time schedule by when the Sikkim State would be connected by rail link?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, a survey had been conducted in 2000-01 for Sivok-Singtam new line *via* Giellikhola. The cost of construction of this 60 kms long line was assesed as Rs. 1099 crore with negative rate of return. The proposal was not taken up for implementation due to unremunerative nature, heavy throwforward and constraint of resources. Further based on demands, survey for new line from Sivok to Rangpo has been taken up.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The time schedule for providing this link is not feasible to be given at this stage.